Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1728 - September 24 2010 Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1728 with a release date of Friday, September 24 2010 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1. The following is a Q-S-T. The United States will support a new ham band near 500 kHz at WARC 2012, the World Radiosport Team Championship is coming back to U.S. soil in 2014, the FCC ramps up enforcement in ham radio and a Minnesota ham club is awarded a grant from Pepsi Cola to buy new radio gear. Find out who on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1728 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESTRUCTURING: US TO SUPPORT NEW MEDIUM WAVE HAM BAND PROPOSAL AT WRC 2012

A new ham Medium Frequency allocation could be in ham radios future. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

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The ARRL reports that the United States is supporting new secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 461 to 469 kHz and 471 to 478 kHz. This after both the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration spectrum regulators have agreed to support this secondary Medium Frequency allocation to the at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The FCC and NTIA formally presented the proposal at a meeting of the Second Permanent Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission held a few weeks ago in Brazil. However the proposal will likely draw opposition from maritime interests domestically and internationally. They have expressed opposition to any amateur allocation in the 415 to 526.5 kHz spectrum.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the City of Angels.

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The full story is on-line at tinyurl.com/2a4zwry which is a direct link to the ARRL web news item. (Southgate, ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: GAREC 2010 CONFERENCE UPDATE

As previously reported, the 2010 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference or GAREC 2010 is scheduled for October 11th to the 12th on the Caribbean island of Curacao. Its now been announced that one of the highlights of this years conference will be an actual emergency communications exercise. This as a way of exploring how information sharing across borders can be improved.

The Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference supported by the International Amateur Radio Union, all three IARU Regions and the ARRL. With its theme of "Learning through Practicing," this year's conference is an important opportunity for emergency communicators to discuss recent events, discover technical solutions to problems and how to cooperate with professional partners. (Southgate)

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RADIOSPORTS: USA TO HOST 2014 WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship games will be held in the United States and two former participants will be heading up the event. Bruce Tennant is here with the details:

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Hosting rights for the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship or WRTC have been awarded to the New England WRTC 2014 Organizing Committee. This organization is a newly-formed independent group, and not part of any existing organization, national society, or club.

Heading up the group are former WRTC participants Doug Grant K1DG as Chairman and Randy Thompson K5ZD as Co-Chairman. They are joined by a committee made up of some of the worlds greatest contesters and DX'ers including CQ Magazine's John Dorr, K1AR, Kids Day creator Larry "Tree" Tyree N6TR and ARRL New England Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, to mention only three.

According to Doug Grant, K1DG, writing on the groups news blog, since the first Radiosport Team Championship in Seattle, Washington, back in 1990 there have been six W-R-TC events, with a total of 234 teams and 468 operator spots. Grant adds that those 468 operator positions have been occupied by 353 different operators from 49 different DXCC entities.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I,m Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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More about planning and how to qualify a team for the 2014 competition is on line at www.rtc2014.org (wrtc2014)

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RESCUE RADIO: NATIONAL EAS TEST AGAIN DELAYED

Radio World On-Line says that the long anticipated and firstever national EAS test will likely not be scheduled in early 2011. A federal source confirmed to the magazine that reason for the delay is to allow time for additional outreach and education with the public, with broadcasters, with state and local emergency management and federal partners. The on-line magazine says that the extra outreach will enable the alert and warning community to be better prepared for

the nationwide exercise when it finally does take place. (RW)

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ENFORCEMENT: SBE FINDS ARCO COMMERCIAL TRIPS EAS DECODERS AT RADIO STATIONS

British Petrolium has pulled an ad for subsidiary Arco that used what sounded like Emergency Activation or EAS tones. This, after members of the Society of Broadcast Engineers EAS Committee and participants in SBE's EAS Exchange identified a radio commercial as the source of unexpected triggering of EAS alert receivers.

The commercial started with effects that sounded like a shortened EAS header tone followed by the spoken phrase, "The following alert is from ARCO."   The EAS like headers were partial, but contained enough information to mimic the start of an real EAS header, because it used the proper frequencies and data rate. When this commercial was played by a station that is being monitored as a local EAS source, it may cause some decoder equipment to un-mute and print a partial message.

For those not aware of how EAS messahes work while the internal monitor speaker is un-muted, the alert is not relayed by the EAS unit on the monitoring station. Although the problem will only affect stations that both monitor a station that airs the ARCO commercial material and that have a particular type of EAS equipment, the SBE had recommended fpr stations check the affected commercial material.

It should be noted that the existence of EAS header data in this commercialmight be considered an FCC violation when aired. Regulation 11.45 says that no person may transmit or cause to transmit the EAS codes or Attention Signal, or a recording or simulation thereof, in any circumstance other than in an actual National, State or Local Area emergency or authorized test of the EAS system.

Though the spot did not use actual EAS tones ad agency Ogilvy and Mather Worldwide which created the commercial stated it regretted confusion the spot may have caused. For those who have not heard it, an MP3 of the commercial can be downloaded at tinyurl.com/arcospot (CGC Communicator, SBE Website, others.)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KL7ION repeater serving America's last true frontier from Anchorage Alaska.

(5 sec pause here)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC WARNING LETTER ISSUED IN NET INTERFERENCE CASE

The FCC has sent a Warning Notice to an Ohio ham alleging him of being the source of interference to a 75 meter net. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has the details:

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The Warning Notice dated September 3rd was sent to Charles A. Hathaway, W8ROX, by FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith. In it Smith says that the Commission received several complaints of interference to the Century Club Net operating on 3902 KHz. At her request, the staff at the Commission's monitoring station began investigating in order to determine the location of this interference. Over the next month, the monitoring station confirmed that the interference was taking place and used its direction finding equipment to determine that the signal was coming from a location north of Athens, Ohio.

The Commission's Detroit Field Office was notified and they began a field investigation into the matter. On July 21st at approximately 10:20 PM, the field agents heard an audible transmission interrupt the ongoing Century Club Net. They began using their vehicle's direction finding equipment to determine the location of the offending transmitter. At 12:40 AM, they had a positive Direction Find to a beam antenna. At that time, they knocked on the door and attempted to inspect the station. No one answered the door. They returned the next day at 4:21 PM and at that time were able to inspect the station.

During the inspection, Hathaway indicated to the agents that he was unaware that his station had been transmitting during the time in question. This was because he had been having problems with his push to talk button getting turned on accidentally.

As part of the inspection, the agents took pictures of Hathaway's equipment, including a close up of his push to talk button and its relative position to his microphone and the rest of his equipment.

In her letter, Smith told Hathaway that his argument that he was unaware that his station had been transmitting during the time in question because of this problem with his push to talk button was unpersuasive. She wrote that one of the Commission's field agents specifically noted in his report that the push to talk button is not located on or near the rest of Hathaway's equipment. Rather that it was strung through the handle of his desk drawer and away from the desk top where the remainder of his equipment is located. Moreover, according to the agents, the push to talk button appeared to be in working order during the inspection.

Smith concluded by telling Hathaway that his alleged operation as described in the Warning Letter, and verified by the Commission's field staff, is contrary to the basis and purpose of the amateur radio service. This as it is set out in Section 97.1 of the Commission's rules. Also, that it is a violation of Section 97.101(d) of the rules. She then warned Hathaway that the Commission expects him to abide by its rules. As such, her letter to him serves notice that, if operation of this type reoccurs, Hathaway could be subject to severe penalties. These include anything from a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies upon which he may operate, to a fine or even revocation of

his license.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, following this FCC enforcement action from Scottsdale, Arizona.

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A link to the FCC Warning Letter can be found at www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Hatha10_09_2 1_5203.html. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT FOLLOW-UP: FCC AFFIRMS $10000 FINE AGAINST FLORIDA UNLICENSED STATION

A follow-up to our story several months ago about to Christopher M. Myers, whom the FCC claimed they found to be operating an unlicensed broadcast station on 95.9 MHz of Lauderhill, Florida. On September 9th, the regulatory agency affirmed a $10,000 fine issued to Myers as a Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture on July 12th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, has more:

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By way of background, back on August 14, 2008, the Enforcement Bureau's Miami Office issued a Notice of Unlicensed Operation to Christopher M. Myers for operating an FM broadcast station from his residence on 91.7 MHz without a license. The notice warned him that continued operation could subject him to further enforcement action.

On July 21, 2009, in response to a complaint that Myers was still operating an unlicensed station at his residence in Lauderhill, Florida, agents from the Miami Office used direction-finding to locate the source of broadcast transmissions on the frequency 95.9 MHz. It was traced to the same building from which Myers previously operated an unlicensed radio station on 91.7 MHz. In the ensuing months the FCC says it received continued complaints regarding this operation.

On March 7, 2010, the agents from the Miami Office inspected the unlicensed station, which was located in a condominium unit owned Myers. The agents observed a coaxial cable that connected a roof-mounted antenna on the condominium building to an FM radio transmitter operating on the frequency 95.9 MHz located inside Myers's condominium unit. The agents also observed that Christopher Myers was the only person present inside his unit at the time of the Commission's inspection.

This past July 12th, the Enforcement Bureau's Miami Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 to Myers. In the time since then Myers had not filed a response to the NA L. Now, based on the information before it the FCC has again affirmed the forfeiture and given Myers the customary 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU

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At airtime, it's unknown in Myers has contacted the FCC regarding this matter or if he has paid the fine. (FCC)

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RADIO CRIME: CALIFORNIA STATION LOOSES GROUND SYSTEM A SECOND TIME

For the second time in two years copper thieves have struck the Butte Broadcasting Company's KKXX AM transmitter site in Paradise, California. According to the Oroville Mercury Register, this time the thieves made of with about 22,000 feet of Number 10 wire from the ground system, which was apparently bundled into lengths of 10 to 20 feet and then carted away.

Station manager Andrew Palmquist said the transmitter was able to remain on the air. Palmquist told the paper that the thieves apparently knew what they were doing. They left just enough wire for the ground system to allow the station to continue to broadcast. Palmquist told the paper the thieves took a back road to the tower, avoiding a locked gate.

After the first wire theft in 2008, Palmquist said copper grounding wires were replaced and a concrete footing was poured about every 10 to 15 feet along the length of the wire in hopes of discouraging future thefts. However this time, the thieves cut and removed the wires between the concrete.

According to a scrap copper website, with the worlds economy still not very stable, that kind of wire is only is fetching between $1.22 and $2.75 a pound. So the thieves went to a lot of work and risked their lives to get very little in return.

KKXX management is asking anyone with knowledge about the copper theft to contact the station. (RW)

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ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY: GE CLOSING ITS LAST INCANDESCENT US LAMP FACTORY

The General Electric Company is closing its last incandescent light bulb factory in the United States. This, to comply with the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

According to news reports, the resulting savings in energy and greenhouse-gas emissions are expected to be immense. But the move also had unintended consequences. Rather than setting off a long predicted surge in the domestic manufacture of replacement lights such as Compact Fluorescents, many are already being manufactured overseas. Most come from China and are assembled at a low cost that domestic manufacturers cannot match. (Published news reports)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA MAMES W6SNV RECIPIENT OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Some names in the news. First up is Richard G. Somers, W6NSV, of Pacific Palisades, California who has been named to receive the Radio Club of America's Special Recognition Award. This, for his commitment in initiating and implementing the Radio Cub of America's youth education program. Sommers and other recipients of Radio Club of America sponsored awards will receive their honors at the He will receive the award at the organizations 101st annual awards banquet to be held this November in New York City. (RCA)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: AMSAT-NA ANNOUNCES NEW BOD

The 2010 AMSAT North American Board of Directors election has been completed with Tom Clark, K3IO, Lou McFadin, W5DID and Gould Smith, WA4SXM elected as Regular Members and Tony Monteiro, AA2TX, as the Boards Alternate Member.

A total of 813 ballots were returned and counted. In accordance with the bylaws of AMSAT-North America, those receiving the three highest numbers of votes are elected as regular members of the Board of Directors for the next 2 years, with the forth becoming an alternate to serve one year until the next election. (WA4SCA)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio

amateur. From the United States of America, We

are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the

world from our only official website at

www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the

volunteer services of the following radio

amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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WOIRLDBEAT: CHANGES AT RADIO AMATEURS OF

CANADA

Radio Amateurs of Canada has announced that Chris Wiesner, VA3SM has assumed the position of Office Coordinator and Dave Parks, VE3AV, is continuing in his role as Membership Administrator. Chris is full-time

while Dave is part-time. Offices hours are Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 16:00 Eastern Time and the telephone number is 613-244-4367 or toll-free 877-273-8304. With these changes Radio Amateurs of Canada says that it is looking forward to offering: "improved service to Canadian Amateurs in general and our members in particular."   (VE4BAW)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ISS ATV ACTIVATED BRIEFLY ON SEPTEMBER 14th

In ham radio news from space, word that the crew on-board the International Space Station activated the Slow Scan Television experiment on September 14th.   G8ATE in Leichester, England, reports having received 4 good images from the I-S-S during the 12:32 and 14:06 UTC passes before the crew switched back to packet operation. (ANS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISSAT 1 NEAR COMPLETION

ARISSat Project Manager Gould Smith, WA4SXM, says that the ARISSat-1 satellite is completed and is currently undergoing vibration testing in Orlando, Florida. Smith notes that the shipping container for both the flight unit and a back-up is under construction which will lead to the shipping of the two flight ready satellites to Houston in the very near future.

>From Houston, NASA will be sending the satellites on to Russia at the end of the month. Once there, the Kursk Experiment will be attached, additional testing done and then the entire flight package will be transported to the Baikonur Cosmodrome for launch.

ARISSat-1, which is the former SuitSat 2 is scheduled to transported to the International Space Station in January 2011. It will be manually released into orbit during a space walk sometime next February. (AMSAT-NA, WA4SXM)

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HAM RADIO NEAR SPACE: BALLOON LAUNCH ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Amateur radio operators in the Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. area may be interested in becoming a team member of the 'Small High-Altitude Expendable Balloon Launch.' Pat Kilroy, N8PK, is assembling his team starting and says he needs hams who are willing to establish one or more effective ground stations.

N8PK held an initial planning session at the Carroll County Amateur Radio Club meeting in Westminster, Maryland on September 13th, complete with a demo of the three different PICetSat transponder modules. Two

of the modules have their telemetry downlink in Morse Code 433.920 MHz FM and the other uses Packet Radio. The team will later choose to fly.

The launch of the Small High-Altitude Expendable Balloon is planned for the Mason-Dixon Hamfest on Sunday, October 24th. If you want to volunteer please send him an e-mail to Patrick.L.Kilroy at nasa dot gov. (ANS)

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ON THE AIR: VC1J TO CELEBRATE THE 65th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN

On the air, word from up North that Canada's Westcumb Amateur Radio Club in Amherst, Nova Scotia has been granted the callsign VC1J. This for the special event station celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the United Nations and UNESCO. The club will be activating VC1J from the Joggins Fossil Cliffs which became a UNESCO site last year. Operations will be on Sunday October 24th on various bands and modes. A special event QSL card will be available for those who contact VC1J on that date. (RAC)

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THE CONTEST CORNER: REVISED RULES IN OCEANIA DX CONTEST

The Oceania DX Contest, Australia's Premier international amateur radio contest, is coming up on the first two weekends of October. October 2nd and 3rd sees the SSB competition with the C-W segment on the 9th and the 10th. This year there are some slight changes to the rules. The category of multiple operators with one transmitter means that anyone with a station can enter with some additional operators as only one transmitter is used. The other new category is 2 transmitters. (VK4TI)

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ON THE AIR: CANADIAN COASTAL STATION CG3MUG

The Thunder Bay MCTS Centre of the Canadian Coast Guard Radio system will celebrate 100 years of service in November and ham radio will be a part of the celebration.

Constructed by the Canadian Marconi Company wireless station, MUG Port Arthur was the first Canadian Great Lakes Marconi station built. In 1912, following the success of MUG, the Canadian government constructed a chain of marine radio stations from Port Arthur down to Kingston, Ontario.

Now, during November of 2010, radio amateurs at the Center will be operating special event station CG3MUG to celebrate this achievement. Throughout this period there will be several chances for both ham's and SWL's to obtain a special 100th anniversary CG3MUG QSL card. For more information, please visit tinyurl.com/38k8mc on the World Wide Web. (VA3ROM, VE3VAI)

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DX

In DX, a group of German operators will be active from the Madiera Islands as CR3L during the CQ World Wide DX RTTY Contest on September 25th and 26th. Operators will probably be active as CT9 slash their home call before and after the contest. QSL via DJ6QT

VK4AN will be active as 3D2A from Viti Levu Island between October 27th and November 14th. Operation will be on 160 through 10 meters including 30, 17 and 12 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via VK4AN

Members of the Storstockholms Radioamat"rer Club will be active as SK0ZA slash OH0 from the Aland Island between September 24th to the 26th. Operations will be on all bands and modes. Visit their web page at www dot sk0za dot se.

W8FV will be returning to Tanzania and will be active as 5H9PD between October 2nd to the 30th. Operation will probably be on 40 through 10 meters, depending on propagation, mostly CW with thew possibility of some PSK31. QSL via his home callsign.

Members of the Safari DX Activators Club of Azerbaijan will be activating two different Nature Reserves between September 20th and October 3rd. The operators and participants are representatives of the countries of Latvia, Russia and Azerbaijan. There will be two different teams, callsigns and QSL routes. Use the directions given to you on the air.

VK5MAV will be active slash 5 or possibly using a special callsign or prefix from Flinders Island between September 21st to the 27th. Operations will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters mainly using CW. QSL via his home callsign, either direct or by the Bureau.

Lastly, members of the Czech and Slovak Contest Crew have announced a DXpedition to The Gambia to take place between November 17th and the 30th. They will be using renewed callsigns from their previous 2007 operation as C50C or C52C. Also, the special callsign C5A will be reserved for the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest. QSL by the Bureau or direct to: Branislav Daras, P.O.Box 6, SK-820 08, Bratislava 28, Slovak Republic.

Above from various DX newsw sources.)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: PEPSI AWARDS GRANT TO MINNESOTA HAM RADIO CLUB

And finally this week, word that the Pepsi-Cola Company of Rochester, Minnesota, has awarded the Rochester Amateur Radio Club a grant of $2,355. This to fund new radio equipment that will allow the club to better assist in emergency and community communications in downtown Rochester.

By way of background, the Rochester Amateur Radio Club is a Minnesota non-profit corporation and holds Federal tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service as well. It is an ARRL affiliated group and

has the stated purposes to advance general interest and knowledge of amateur radio, to promote cooperation and exchange of information between members and to provide public service support for community activities. To accomplish this, the club maintains two VHF repeaters a UHF repeater, and three APRS digipeaters.

The Pepsi-Cola Company of Rochester a franchise beverage distributor of the Gillette Group Inc., recently awarded another $15,000 in local Pepsi Refresh Grants to area organizations. In all, the company planned to award up to $100,000 to local communities in 2010. To find out more about the Pepsi Refresh Grants, you can take your web browser to www.refresheverything.com. The Rochester Amateur Radio club can be found on-line at www.rarchams.org (Rochester Post- Bulletin)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline'sT only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

Please do not forget that in association with the Newark Amateur Radio Society that we are currently conducting a survey to determine where these weekly Amateur Radio Newsline reports are replayed on the air. If you are a bulletin station that transmits these weekly newscasts or a listener who has the following information, we need you to supply to us the call sign of the repeater or bulletin station making the transmission, the frequency where it can be heard, the time and day and days of the week it is broadcast, the time zone and the estimated audience you think it has. Please e-mail that information along with your name and callsign to arnschedule at gmail dot com. Once again thats arnschedule at gmail dot com. As always we thank you for your assistance in this survey.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno, Nevada, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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